

5                    **PRINTING METHOD AND APPARATUS HAVING MULTIPLE RASTER  
                         IMAGE PROCESSORS**

**ABSTRACT**

10                    The invention provides a printing method and apparatus, comprising a software application  
                         that works with proprietary printing utilities, and that may include one or more additional  
                         software components for adding additional printing technology. The invention also  
                         comprises an automatic print load-balancing component in a centralized or distributed raster  
15                    image processing (RIP) printing environment that enables faster system performance over  
                         single or multiple processors.